

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1208

AN ACT

To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for United States contributions to the International Fund for Ireland, and for other purposes.

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1208

AN ACT

To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005
for United States contributions to the International
Fund for Ireland, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Northern Ireland
3 Peace and Reconciliation Support Act of 2003”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The United States has been effectively en-
7 gaged in the Northern Ireland peace process through
8 both participating in negotiations and contributing
9 to the economic development of the region.

10 (2) Both the Government of Ireland and the
11 Irish people and the Government of the United
12 Kingdom and the British people are long-standing
13 friends of the United States and the American peo-
14 ple.

15 (3) In 1986, the United States, in support of
16 the Agreement Between the Government of Ireland
17 and the Government of the United Kingdom
18 (“Anglo-Irish Agreement”) dated November 15,
19 1985, initiated annual contributions to the Inter-
20 national Fund for Ireland (“International Fund”) to
21 help bolster economic development and support pro-
22 grams that would foster peace and reconciliation in
23 Northern Ireland and the affected border areas of
24 the Republic of Ireland.

25 (4) The United States has been a generous and
26 faithful donor to the International Fund, contrib-

1 uting more than \$386,000,000 to help improve rela-
2 tions between Catholics and Protestants in Northern
3 Ireland through the creation of thousands of jobs
4 and cross community business development.

5 (5) More than 80 percent of the International
6 Fund's investments have been in disadvantaged
7 areas offering work experience and important job
8 training programs for disadvantaged and unem-
9 ployed youth through the economic, social, and phys-
10 ical regeneration of deprived areas.

11 (6) The International Fund has also developed
12 a series of community-building programs promoting
13 greater dialogue and understanding between Catho-
14 lics and Protestants and leadership programs de-
15 signed to develop a new generation of leaders in
16 Northern Ireland to bring about a more peaceful
17 and prosperous future in the region.

18 (7) Through the Anglo-Irish Agreement Sup-
19 port Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-415), the United
20 States also seeks to ensure that its contributions
21 promote "reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the
22 establishment of a society in Northern Ireland in
23 which all may live in peace, free from discrimination,
24 terrorism, and intolerance, and with the opportunity

1 for both communities to participate fully in the
2 structures and processes of government.”.

3 (8) The Good Friday Agreement reached by the
4 Government of Ireland, the Government of the
5 United Kingdom, and political party leaders on April
6 10, 1998, created the Northern Ireland Executive
7 Assembly and Executive Committee and provided for
8 a “democratically elected Assembly in Northern Ire-
9 land which is inclusive in its membership, capable of
10 exercising executive and legislative authority, and
11 subject to safeguards to protect the rights and inter-
12 ests of all sides of the community.”.

13 (9) The Good Friday Agreement also called for
14 police reform and establishment of a “new begin-
15 ning” in policing in Northern Ireland with an effec-
16 tive, accountable, and fair police service capable of
17 attracting and sustaining support from the commu-
18 nity as a whole, capable of maintaining law and
19 order, and based on principles of protection of
20 human rights.

21 (10) In 1999, the Independent Commission on
22 Policing in Northern Ireland, mandated by the Good
23 Friday Agreement, made 175 recommendations for
24 policing reform in Northern Ireland, some of which
25 have been implemented.

(11) In 2002, the Department of State, as required by section 701(d) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228), issued a “Report on Policing Reform and Human Rights in Northern Ireland” and concluded that among key areas of concern that had not been fully implemented was the establishment of a critically-needed new police training facility and an increase in funding for training programs.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) United States assistance for the International Fund has contributed greatly to the economic development of Northern Ireland and that both objectives of the Anglo-Irish Agreement Support Act of 1986, economic development and reconciliation, remain critical to achieving a just and lasting peace in the region, especially in the economically-depressed areas;

(2) although there has been positive economic development in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, International Fund contributions to support much-needed projects in economically-depressed areas of Northern Ireland remain very important, and an expansion of efforts in reconciliation

1 projects as a way to promote peace and economic
2 stability is also encouraged; and

3 (3) since policing reform is a significant part of
4 winning public confidence and acceptance in the new
5 form of government in Northern Ireland, the Inter-
6 national Fund is encouraged to support programs
7 that enhance relations between communities, and be-
8 tween the police and the communities they serve,
9 promote human rights training for police, and en-
10 hance peaceful mediation in neighborhoods of contin-
11 ued conflict.

12 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT**
13 **SUPPORT ACT OF 1986.**

14 (a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.—Section 2(b) of the
15 Anglo-Irish Agreement Support Act of 1986 is amended
16 by adding at the end the following: “Furthermore, the
17 International Fund is encouraged to support programs
18 that enhance relations between communities, and between
19 the police and the communities they serve, promote human
20 rights training for police, enhance peaceful mediation in
21 neighborhoods of continued conflict, promote training pro-
22 grams to enhance the new district partnership police
23 boards recommended by the Patten Commission, and as-
24 sist in the transition of former British military installa-
25 tions and prisons into sites for peaceful, community-sup-

1 ported activities, such as housing, retail, and commercial
2 development.”.

3 (b) UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTER-
4 NATIONAL FUND.—Section 3 of the Anglo-Irish Agree-
5 ment Support Act of 1986 is amended by adding at the
6 end the following:

7 “(c) FISCAL YEARS 2004 AND 2005.—Of the
8 amounts made available for fiscal years 2004 and 2005
9 to carry out chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance
10 Act of 1961 (relating to the economic support fund), there
11 are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for each
12 such fiscal year for United States contributions to the
13 International Fund. Amounts appropriated pursuant to
14 the authorization of appropriations under the preceding
15 sentence are authorized to remain available until ex-
16 pended. Of the amount authorized to be appropriated for
17 fiscal years 2004 and 2005 under this subsection, it is
18 the sense of Congress that not less than 20 percent of
19 such amount for each such fiscal year should be used to
20 carry out the last sentence of section 2(b).”.

21 (c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 6(1) of the Anglo-
22 Irish Agreement Support Act of 1986 is amended by add-
23 ing at the end before the semicolon the following: “, spe-

- 1 cifically through improving local community relations and
- 2 relations between the police and the people they serve”.

Passed the House of Representatives March 31,
2003.

Attest:

Clerk.